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AGRICULTURE ACCEPTS RECORD ASSIGNMENT

American farmers face the busiest year in history. Farm production goals announced in the fall of 1941 became as outdated on the day of Japan's attack as industry's production goals for planes, tanks, and guns. In practically every commodity there has been revision -- upward. Food and fiber have taken on new value.

Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard, terming the 1942 production season "the most crucial in the history of American agriculture," announced on January 16 substantial increases in farm production goals. From U. S. farms must come mammoth quantities of food and fiber to supply armed forces and busy civilians, and to help feed and clothe the United Nations with whom America is allied.

Only with the most efficient farm production can we attain the new goals, the Secretary declares. Land, labor, and supplies must be used in turning out commodities in which increases are needed, rather than in producing commodities already well stocked. Greatest needs will be in the direction of livestock feeds, fats and oils, meats, vegetables, and dairy and poultry products.

"Some of these goals will be very difficult to reach, but we believe farmers can do it despite war time shortages of farm labor, machinery, and production supplies," the Secretary says. "For wheat, cotton and tobacco, the goals should not be exceeded. To do so would waste precious labor and supplies. For the other commodities, if farmers are able to exceed the goals and processors can handle the products, the Nation's interests would be served."

As an aid to increasing production, quantities of grains held by the Government will be made available for feeding purposes. This release of supplies is expected to help greatly in easing the tight storage situation now existing.

Indications are that prices for most of the freedom foods will be favorable to increased production for the duration. However, as an added safeguard in case of unexpected price declines, the Secretary has issued price support proclamations for a number of commodities for which considerable increases in production are asked. The proclamations are made under Public Law 147 approved July 1, 1941 which provides that whenever during the existing emergency the Secretary of Agriculture finds it necessary to encourage the expansion of production of any nonbasic agricultural commodity, the Department of Agriculture is required, within the limit of funds available, to support a price for producers at not less than 85 percent of parity or a comparable price.

The announcement made on January 16, 1942 supersedes the proclamation of August 29, 1941. It expands the list of commodities and extends the support period through June 30, 1943. Commodities included in the

new proclamation are:

(1) Hogs, eggs, evaporated milk, dry skim milk, cheese, and chickens (excluding broilers).

(2) The 1942 crop of dry peas of the following varietal types: Alaska, Bluebell, First and Best, White Canada, Alderman, Perfection, Surprise, and Thomas Laxton.

(3) The 1942 crop of dry edible beans of the following varietal types: Pea and Medium White, Great Northern, California Small White, Pink, and Pinto.

(4) The 1942 crop of peanuts for oil.

(5) The 1942 crop of soybeans for oil.

(6) The 1942 crop of flaxseed for oil.

Further interpretation of the Secretary's announcement, by commodities, follows:

Grain and Feed Crops

CORN: To insure adequate feed for increased animal production, and maintain Ever-Normal Granary supplies, corn goals for the Nation were raised 5,000,000 acres. In order to reach this increased goal, allotments in the commercial corn area were raised 10 percent. There will be no marketing quota. It is expected that the corn loan program will continue as usual.

Corn producers in the commercial corn area may plant up to their usual acreage without incurring deductions in AAA payments other than for corn. Farmers who exceed their corn allotments, however, will be ineligible for corn loans.

This "usual corn acreage" for each farm will be established at 130 percent of the revised 1942 acreage allotment. This usual acreage provision, similar to the one in effect in 1941, is primarily for the benefit of individual farmers such as producers in some dairy areas where increased feed production is desirable in view of expanding dairy production.

The newly-announced 1942 corn goal is 92,500,000 to 95,000,000 acres, as compared to the goal set last September at 87,500,000 to 90,000,000 acres. Acreage in 1941 was 87,164,000 acres.

WHEAT: There is no change in the 1942 wheat production goal, due to adequate supplies now on hand. The national allotment of 55,000,000 acres, announced last fall, remains in effect. This is a decrease of 12 percent from the 62,400,000 wheat acreage of 1941.

In order to provide additional storage for the 1942 wheat crop as well as to aid producers of livestock dairy, and poultry products, a program to convert Government-owned stocks of wheat into livestock and poultry feed at prices comparable to corn was announced January 19.

Storage for all types of foodstuffs will be taxed to capacity in handling reserves that are contemplated under the Food-for-Freedom program. In addition, the largest wheat supply the Nation has ever had is in sight this year. A big transportation and storage problem was encountered in handling the 1941 crop. This is indicated by current

wheat storage figures. Farm storage on January 1 amounted to roughly 370,000,000 bushels which is nearly twice as much as farmers stored in their own bins on the average from 1931 to 1940. Congestion at terminal storage points prompted this large amount of farmer storage in 1941 and there is every indication that this congestion will be even more acute in 1942.

The program that is now to offer approximately 100 bushels of Government-held wheat for feed is designed to open up necessary working space in warehouses throughout the country and at the same time provide more reasonably-priced feed where it is needed.

Under this plan the feed wheat sales price per bushel for feed wheat delivered to the purchaser will be the lower of (1) the 1941 wheat loan value at point of delivery; or (2) the Commodity Credit Corporation sales price for corn per bushel at point of delivery. No sales of cracked wheat will be made at a price delivered of less than 90 cents per bushel except wheat produced and stored in those counties where the 1941 wheat loan value is below 90 cents.

A wheat marketing quota for 1942 already has been proclaimed. A referendum will be held among eligible growers this spring to determine whether the quota will remain in effect, strengthening crop loan and acreage allotments of the AAA wheat program.

Wheat growers are being urged to hold down, as much as possible, their production of wheat during 1942 so that they can devote more of their resources such as time, energy, soil, machinery and fuel to producing commodities on the Food-for-Freedom list. It is pointed out that the Nation's wheat granaries are well stocked with virtually a two-years' supply and that foreign markets are practically non-existent at the present time.

Preliminary estimates put the 1942 crop at 793,000,000 bushels. Carry-over on July 1, 1942 is anticipated at 635 million bushels, giving an expected supply as of that date of 1,428,000,000 bushels. In the early 30's when supplies reached nearly this peak, wheat prices dropped to less than 40 cents a bushel. If domestic disappearance is about 670,000,000 bushels, the United States may have about 750,000,000 to 760,000,000 bushels of wheat available for export during 1942-43 or for carry-over on July 1, 1943.

OATS: There is no change in the goal for expected acreage of oats which is 40,000,000 acres, 102 percent of the 1941 acreage of 39,363,000 acres.

BARLEY: The acreage of barley is expected to increase from about 14,375,000 acres to 16,000,000 acres. This is an increase of 6 percent over the 1941 acreage of 15,080,000 acres.

RYE: The rye goal of 10,000,000 acres is substantially the same as the 1941 acreage.

GRAIN SORGHUM: The 1942 goal for grain sorghum is 10,000,000 acres, which is 106 percent of the 1941 acreage of 9,397,000 acres.

ALL HAY: There is no change in this goal which in September was set at 74,000,000 to 75,000,000 acres. The acreage now expected for 1942 is 72,000,000 acres, as compared with 71,893,000 acres in 1941.

RICE: All restrictions on rice acreage have been removed. The 1942 goal has been set at 1,320,000 acres, as compared with the previous goal of 1,200,000 acres. The new goal is a six percent increase over the 1941 harvested acreage of 1,245,000 acres.

A grower must plant his full rice acreage allotment in order to receive a rice conservation payment. He may plant any desired acreage above his allotment without incurring deductions, but the payment will be based on the allotment.

Loans will be continued on the present 85 percent of parity basis.

An increase in rice production is being encouraged for three principle reasons: (1) It is an economical food for a nation at war because it is high in food value and requires relatively little processing; (2) there is no burdensome surplus of rice to overtax the transportation and storage facilities of the nation, due to the fact that recent crops have been badly damaged by storms and other adverse weather conditions; and (3) Cuba has recently begun buying more American rice because the blockade has shut off her trade with China.

Fats and Oils

These goals place particular emphasis on the production of oil-bearing crops which will help ease the shortage felt by the loss of the Far Eastern vegetable oil supply. Efforts will be made, also, to step up production of lard, tallow, and grease in packing plants.

Fats and oils produced on farms are vitally important in both civilian and military life. Principal uses of agricultural fats and oils include manufacture of soaps, cooking fats, foods, paint and varnish, plastics, linoleum, oilcloth, some lubricants, printer's ink, and explosives.

SOYBEANS: The soybean goal is raised to 9,000,000 acres, as compared to the September goal of 7,000,000 acres. The new goal represents an increase of 54 percent over the 1941 acreage of 5,855,000 acres.

To encourage this production, soybeans will be purchased at 85 percent of the comparable price as of the beginning of the marketing year, October 1, but in no event at less than \$1.60 per bushel, farm basis, for U. S. No. 2 Yellow soybeans of recognized varieties of high oil content designed by the State Experiment Station with approval of the USDA State War Board.

PEANUTS: The goal for peanuts is increased to 255 percent of the 1941 acreage, or a total of 5,000,000 acres. The September goal was 3,500,000 acres, and the 1941 acreage was 1,964,000 acres.

The 5,000,000 acre goal is broken down to 1,600,000 acres for nuts (same as 1941 acreage and goal announced last fall) and 3,400,000 acres for oil. All farmers growing peanuts for oil are urged to expand production just as fully as facilities allow.

The difference in the goal for oil peanuts and that for edible peanuts is explained by the fact that national needs for the latter---- in the making of of peanut butter, candy and salted peanuts----will remain about the same this year; whereas the need for peanut oil, which is used in the manufacture of many essential wartime items, is increasing day by day.

Government purchases will be made to support prices. These are to be made at 85 percent of the comparable price as of the beginning of the marketing year (August 1), but in no event less than \$82 per ton for U. S. No. 1 White Spanish type peanuts for oil, delivered at the approved local receiving agency, with location and grade differentials. The purchase price for No. 1 Runners will be \$78 a ton, and \$70 a ton for Class A Virginias.

FLAXSEED: The goal for flax is raised to 4,500,000 acres, an increase of 31 percent over the 3,367,000 acres of 1941. A flaxseed loan will be available, at 85 percent of the parity price as of the beginning of the marketing year (June 1), but in no event less than \$2.10 per bushel, farm basis.

Livestock and Poultry Products

Farmers are increasing hog and chicken numbers to such an extent that it will be possible to turn feed supplies into greater quantities of milk, meat, lard, and eggs than was thought possible four months ago when first goals were announced.

The price supporting program announced last fall for hogs, eggs, evaporated milk, dry skim milk, cheese, and chickens (excluding broilers) will continue in effect until June 30, 1943. Under this program, prices are supported at a minimum of 85 percent of parity.

MILK: The September goal of 125,000,000,000 pounds of milk still stands. This is 107 percent of the 1941 production of 116,500,000,000 pounds. It is believed that many farmers will be unable to enlarge milking herds as much as they wish, and therefore will have to depend on better feeding and increased production per cow for much of the desired increase in total milk output. Decreased culling is suggested as a means of maintaining herd numbers.

EGGS: The egg production goal is increased to 4,200,000,000 dozen from the September goal of 4,000,000,000 dozen. This is a 13 percent increase over the Nation's 1941 egg production. Reports from farms indicate very favorable prospects of attaining egg production goals due to substantial increases now under way.

CHICKENS: Number of chickens marketed in 1942 (farm production only) is set at 644,000,000 unchanged from the September goal. This represents an increase of 10 percent over 1941 marketings of 585,000,000 chickens.

HOGS: The hog slaughter goal has been increased to 83,000,000, as compared with the September goal of 79,300,000. This is a 14 percent increase over the 1941 slaughter of 72,500,000 animals. That hog raisers will attain, or go a long way toward attaining, the 1942 goal is indicated by greatly increased number of hogs on farms and by

expected increases in spring farrowings.

BEEF: Increased marketing of beef cattle and calves, and not increased numbers, continues to be the beef goal. The program calls for marketings of 28,000,000 head in 1942, the same slaughter goal as the one set in September. This is an 8 percent increase over the 25,905,000 cattle and calves marketed in 1941.

The estimated number of cattle and calves on U. S. farms in 1942 is close to the record peak of 74,000,000 head reached in 1934 just prior to the drought. By selling cows and heifers now, culling their beef herds, stockmen may avoid a threatened excess in beef cattle numbers, help reduce the danger of overloading ranges and pastures and help prevent the low prices that could accompany an oversupply. Beef cattle prices stood at \$9.39 farm price on December 15, or 125 percent of parity. They averaged the highest during the year that they have been since 1929.

SHEEP AND LAMBS: The expected 1942 slaughter of sheep and lambs remains at 22,900,000 an increase of one percent over the 1941 production figure.

WOOL: The expected wool production for 1942 remains at the figure of 51,200,000 sheep for shearing, a five percent increase over 1941.

TURKEYS: Marketing of 35,750,000 turkeys is expected in 1942. This is an increase of 10 percent over the 1941 marketing of 32,500,000.

Vegetables

HOME GARDENS: The recommendation is continued that every farm family in the United States try to have a garden for home use. Such gardens serve the double purpose of improving family diets and relieving the demand for commercial vegetables and metal canned goods greatly needed for wartime purposes. It is hoped that the previous goal of 5,760,000 farm gardens can be attained, an increase of 30 percent over the number in 1941.

FRESH VEGETABLES: It is expected that commercial truck gardens for 1942 will increase from 1,785,000 acres to roughly 1,840,000 acres. This is a 10 percent increase over the 1,680,000 acres of commercial truck crops in 1941.

Market gardens are expected to cover roughly 1,075,000 acres, little changed from the 1941 acreage.

CANNING VEGETABLES: Other than peas and tomatoes, the 1942 acreage for commercial canning vegetables is expected to be about the same as in 1941. Huge increases in the pea and tomato crop, however, is expected to result in a pack 45 percent above the 1936-40 average. Price increases over 1940 are warranted in all areas.

CANNING PEAS: The goal for canning peas in 1942 is 38,000,000 cases, an increase of 32 percent over the output of 28,700,000 cases in 1941.

CANNING TOMATOES: The goal for canning tomatoes in 1942 is

40,000,000 cases, an increase of 18 percent over the 34,000,000 cases turned out in 1941.

DRY BEANS: The goal for dry beans is set at 2,600,000 acres, an increase of 13 percent over the 2,304,000 acres grown in 1941. Increased acreage is sought for the White, Pink, and Pinto varieties. Although no great increase in bean acreage originally was intended, recent developments have made the new expansion necessary. Prices will be supported at not less than \$4.75 per hundredweight for U. S. No. 1 Pea beans and Medium White, Great Northern, California Small White, Pink, and Pinto beans, in bags f.o.b. cars at country shipping points. No 2 grade support will be slightly lower.

DRY FIELD PEAS: The goal for dry field peas has been set at 665,000 acres, representing the large increase of 73 percent over the 384,000 acres grown in 1941. Prices will be supported at not less than \$5.25 per hundredweight for U. S. No. 1 dry peas of designated varieties, in bags f.o.b. cars at country shipping points. No 2 grades will be supported at a slightly lower level.

POTATOES: The potato acreage expected is set at roughly 3,060,000 acres, the same as the goal set last fall, and 10 percent higher than the 2,793,000 acreage in 1941. A price supporting program for potatoes will be announced.

SWEET POTATOES: The sweet potato acreage goal is set at 850,000 acres, representing but a slight increase over 1941 acreage.

Fruit

It is expected that total fruit production in 1942 will be about the same as in 1941. Fruit production cannot easily be increased except over a period of time. Emphasis this year should be on prevention of waste and better distribution of utilization as between fresh, dried, and canned fruits.

The canned fruit pack is expected to be four million cases larger than in 1941. Dried fruit production is expected to be 100 thousand tons larger than in 1941.

Sugar

There will be no acreage limitations on plantings of domestic beet and cane sugar in 1942. Favorable sugar prices, together with an increase of $33 \frac{1}{3}$ percent in federal payments to all but the largest growers, should be an incentive to relatively large production in 1942.

Cotton

The new cotton acreage goal is set at 25,000,000 acres, as compared to the September goal of 22-24,000,000 acres. This is an increase of eight percent over the 1941 acreage, but is nine percent below the 1942 national allotment of 2,400,000 acres. Within the new acreage goal, a shift toward production of longer staples will be encouraged in the areas where such cotton can be produced. This will be done by offering special premiums in the form of higher loan rates on staples of 1-1/8 inches and over. An increase in short-staple cotton is not asked.

because there is already a vast supply of this type. A wider variety of essential war materials can be made from long-staple cotton than short-staple.

Tobacco

The revised goals for tobacco are represented by farm acreage allotments of which tobacco growers have already been notified, and are larger for all types than those recommended in September.

FLUE-CURED: For flue-cured, the major class of cigarette leaf, the 1942 goal is equivalent to 110 percent of the 1941 allotment (as compared with 100 percent in September).

BURLEY: For Burley, fire-cured, dark air-cured, cigar filler, and cigar binder, the equivalent of 100 percent of the respective 1941 allotments, as against 90 to 95 percent in September.

MARYLAND: The revised goals represent 110 percent of the 1941 harvested acreage of Maryland tobacco as compared with 105 percent in September; and 100 percent of the 1941 harvested acreage for all cigar wrapper tobacco as compared with 100 percent in September.

Seed Crops

COVER CROP SEED: The acreage goal of 415,000 acres of cover crop seed crops in 1942 remains unchanged. This represents a desired increase of 57 percent over the 265,000 acres grown in 1941. New acreage of cover crop seed is needed in order to compensate for decreased imports, principally from European sources.

HAY CROP SEED: The expected acreage devoted to growing hay crop seed is 4,919,000 acres. This is a 25 percent increase over the 3,923,000 acres harvested for seed in 1941.

Naval Stores

TURPENTINE: Increased production of turpentine is needed in 1942. It is hoped that the output will reach 450,000 barrels, as compared with 285,000 barrels in 1941. The goal set last fall was 400,000 barrels.

ROSIN: Military requirements will demand more than a 50 percent increase in rosin production. Goal set for 1942 is 1,500,000 barrels, as compared to 1941 production of 950,000 barrels. Previous goal had been set at 1,333,000 barrels.

Lumber Products

The 1942 lumber production goal has been set at 33,600,000,000 board feet, a three percent increase over 1941 production of 32,500,000,000 board feet. Pulp wood production goal remains at the 1941 level of 14,300,000 cords.

The following table compares the revised goals for 1942 with the goals announced last September and the corresponding acreage, production or slaughter for 1941:

Commodity	Unit	1941	September Goal	Revised Goal	% 1941
			Goal		
			Thousands of units		
Milk	lbs.	116,500,000	125,000,000	125,000,000	107
Eggs	doz.	3,728,000	4,000,000	4,200,000	113
Chickens	(Number:	585,000	644,000	644,000	110
	(mkt'd.:				
(Farm production only, does not include non-farm production or commercial broiler output. The September goal has been re-stated in line with the revised estimate of numbers for 1941.)					
Hogs	number	72,500	79,300	(slaughter)83,000	114
Corn	acres	87,164	87.5 to 90,000	92.5 to 95,000	108
Cotton	acres	23,250	22 to 24,000	25,000	108
(Within this acreage, a shift toward the production of longer staples will be encouraged in the areas where such cotton can be produced.)					
Wheat	acres	62,400	50 to 55,000	55,000	88
Tobacco:					
Flue-cured	acres	732	762	843	115
Burley	acres	357	358	383	107
Other domestic	acres	261	247	272	104
Rice	acres	1,245	1,200	1,320	106
Sugarcane	acres	265	(No acreage restrictions in 1942)		
Sugar beets	acres	775	(No acreage restrictions in 1942)		
Dry beans	acres	2,304	Same as 1941:		2,600: 113
(Goal for dry beans is increased acreage for white, pink and pinto beans, other varieties about the same acreage as in 1941.)					
Dry field peas	acres	384	-	665	173
Canning peas	cases	28,700	-	38,000	132
Canning tomatoes	cases	34,000	-	40,000	118
Farm gardens	number	4,431	About 5,760	About 5,760	130
Turpentine	bbls.	285	400	450	158
Rosin	bbls.	950	1,333	1,500	158
Cover crop seed	acres	265	415	415	157
Soybeans	acres	5,855	7,000	9,000	154
Flaxseed	acres	3,367	Same as 1941		4,500: 131
Peanuts	acres	1,964	3,500	5,000	255
(Goal for peanuts is about 1,600,000 acres for nuts, or same as 1941, and 3,400,000 acres for oil.)					

In addition to the goals for the commodities just listed, the expected acreage of other crops or production of other classes of livestock was also announced. These are the acreages or production which it is expected will be planted or produced in 1942 in view of the current supply and price outlook. In general, it is believed that adequate acreages or supplies of these crops and classes of livestock will be obtained without any special encouragement or additional price support.

The following table compares the expected acreages or production with the forecasts of last September and the accompanying data for 1941:

Commodity	Unit	1941	September Estimate	January Estimate	% 1941
<u>Thousands of units</u>					
Cattle & calves	number	25,905	28,000 (slaughter)	28,000	108
(The marketing of cattle & calves equal to the estimated production is recommended in order to stabilize cattle numbers and increase the available supply of meat.)					
Sheep & lambs	number	22,630	22,900 (slaughter)	22,900	101
Wool	no. shorn	48,900	51,200	51,200	105
Turkeys	no. mkt'd	32,500	-	35,750	110
Oats	acres	39,363	40,000	40,000	102
Barley	acres	15,080	About 14,375	16,000	106
Rye	acres	3,500	Same as 1941	3,550	101
Grain sorghum	acres	9,397	9,375	10,000	106
All hay	acres	71,893	74 to 75,000	72,000	100
Potatoes	acres	2,793	About 3,060	About 3,060	110
Sweet Potatoes	acres	843	About 850	About 850	101
Fresh vegetables					
Comm. Truck	acres	1,680	About 1,785	About 1,840	110
Market gardens	acres	1,065	About 1,075	About 1,075	101
Canning vegetables	- Other than peas and tomatoes, about same as 1941.				
Fruit	- Total production about same as 1941. Fruit production cannot be easily increased, and emphasis should be on prevention of waste and better distribution of utilization as between fresh, dried, and canned.				
Hay crop seed	acres	3,923	-	4,919	125
Lumber	bd.ft.	32,500,000	-	33,600,000	103
Pulp wood	cords	14,300	-	14,300	100